

## “Peace Be With You: The Gift That Changes Everything” *John 20:21–23*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Fear, anger, doubt. These things have a way of closing doors—both literally and spiritually. In John 20, the disciples are hiding behind locked doors, uncertain about the future, angry about what their people did to their teacher, burdened by guilt, and afraid of what comes next. It is into that fear that the risen Christ appears—not with rebuke, not with disappointment, but with a word: “Peace be with you.”

This is no ordinary greeting. This is a declaration. The crucified and risen Lord stands before those who had fled Him, denied Him, and doubted Him—and He speaks peace. In that moment, Jesus is not ignoring their sin; He is addressing it in the only way that truly heals. His peace comes through His wounds. The hands and side He shows them they are the proof that their sin has been carried, atoned for, and forgiven.

Then Jesus does something remarkable. He sends them: “As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.” And with that sending, He gives them His Spirit and His authority: “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them.”

This is the heart of the Church’s mission. The Church is not primarily an institution, a building, or a social organization. The Church is the place where forgiveness is delivered. Through Word and Sacrament, Christ continues to speak His peace into fearful hearts. Through pastors and the proclamation of the Gospel, He continues to forgive sins—not symbolically, but actually and concretely.

**For us, this is both comfort and calling.**

First, the comfort: forgiveness is not something we achieve; it is something we receive. Like the disciples, we often carry hidden guilt—words we wish we could take back, opportunities we failed to take, faith that faltered under pressure. Yet the risen Jesus still comes to us. In absolution, in Scripture, in the Lord’s Supper, He speaks the same word: “Peace be with you.” Your sins are forgiven. Not because you’ve earned it, but because Christ has secured it.

Second, the calling: forgiven people become forgiving people. Jesus entrusts His Church with the message of Forgiveness. In a world quick to cancel, condemn, and divide, Christians are given a different word to speak—a word that restores rather than destroys. This doesn’t mean ignoring sin, but it does mean addressing it with the same goal Christ has: repentance and forgiveness, not shame and exile.

That calling begins close to home. In our families, our congregations, and our daily interactions, we are given countless opportunities to reflect the mercy we have received. Forgiveness is not always easy. It can feel costly, even painful. But then again, so was the cross. And it is precisely through that cross that forgiveness becomes possible—and powerful.

The doors may still feel closed at times. Fear, guilt, and uncertainty are not strangers to us. But neither is Christ. He still comes. He still speaks. And His word still does what it says.

“Peace be with you.”

And with that peace comes the gift that changes everything: your sins are forgiven.

**Alleluia, Christ Has Risen!**

Pastor Nicholas Thackery

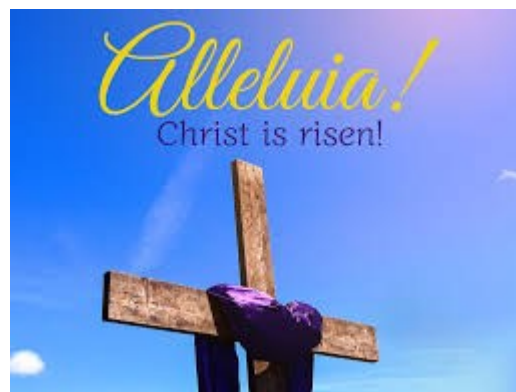
**In this issue**

GSLC News **2**

LWML Notes **2**

Other News **2-4**

Calendar **5**



## MARCH ATTENDANCE AND OFFICIAL ACTS

	5 pm	9 am	Total
Feb 28-March 1	40	90	130
March 7-8	38	66	104
March 21-22	29	83	112
March 28-29	34	118	152
Communion			270

### Transfers/Releases:

None

### Official Acts:

Burials:

Baptism:

## Newsorthy Notes



**Beacon of Hope Meal** will be on Thursday, May 7th at 5 pm. We will be cooking the meal here in the kitchen starting at 1:30 pm. If you would like to help, we would love to have you.

### JOY Group

**Tuesday, May 19th 11:30am**

Please join us on May 19th for a served meal. Please sign up in the narthex so we know how much food to prepare.



### LCMS Health Ministry

May is usually a chock-full month for families with school-aged kids. Graduation, music recitals, spring sports tournaments, awards ceremonies...the list goes on! It can be easy to get bogged down with the busyness of May. But this month also serves as a great reminder that there are many people pouring into the lives of our children, not the least being their teachers at school! The first week of May is Teacher Appreciation Month and teachers should receive praise and appreciation for their dedication to helping teach our children. Pray for your teachers. Write thank you cards and notes. Consider giving gifts. Show love to all teachers for using their vocations to serve Christ and His children.



### LWML NOTES

**LWML Board meeting** will be Tuesday, May 5th at 6:30 pm.

Mary's Circle Thursday, May 7th  
10:00am  
Hannah's Circle Tuesday, May 12th  
6:45pm  
Dorca's Circle Thursday, May 14th  
3:00pm



\*Circles will not meet June-September

### Outdoor Service/Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 31st 9:00am  
Here at Good Shepherd

**OFFICE CLOSED  
MONDAY, MAY 25TH  
MEMORIAL DAY**



### VBS will be June 14th thru June 18th

We need volunteers!

Cheryl Eichler will be the director again this year. She will be coordinating volunteers interested in helping. Please contact Cheryl if you can help out. Thank you.

### 2026 Upcoming Events

May 4-5...Spring Pastor's Conference, Trinity Lutheran Church, **Algona**  
June 10-13...District LWML Convention, **Camp Okoboji**  
July 18-23...Synod Convention, **Phoenix, AZ**  
September 21-22...Fall Pastor's Conference, Gloria Dei Lutheran, **Urbandale**  
September 29...Administrative Assistants Conference, **Fort Dodge**  
October 2-4...Senior Youth Gathering, **Camp Okoboji**  
October 9-11...Pastor's Wives Retreat, **Camp Okoboji**  
October 24-25...Junior Youth Gathering, Sheraton Hotel, **West Des Moines**





You're invited to help recognize, celebrate, honor, and support the nearly 9000 women married to LCMS pastors, including the one who is part of your own congregation!

### The Spring 2026 Grow & Go Challenge

When 10 or more households from your congregation each make a gift of at least \$10 between May 1 and June 30, LFS will send a \$100 VISA gift card for your members to present to your pastor's wife, along your own words of appreciation and support. All additional funds raised through the **Grow With Us – Go With Us** Spring Appeal will be used to support and care for women married to LCMS pastors across Synod through on-line KOINONIA weekly support groups, retreats, and individual in-person or virtual counseling or coaching.

Count me in as 1 of the 10 partner households participating from my congregation with a gift of \$: \_\_\_\_\_

My Congregation's Name, City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Mailing Address or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include cash or check with this completed paper form; or partner online via your preferred method.



venmo



PayPal

Lutheran Family Service is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). As a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, gifts are tax deductible as allowed by the law.

LutheranFamilyService.org | @LutheranFamilyService



**Confirmands:**  
Garrett Begalle and Lukas Ferry  
The Rite of Confirmation with Holy Communion will be held at **9:00 am, Sunday, May 3rd**  
There will be a Confirmand Social in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

May you and your family always be blessed as you walk the righteous path through life.

*Happy Confirmation Day!*

@WishesMsg.com

**CIA**

The CIA camping Trip will be June 4th thru 7th at Pulpit Rock Campground

**Mandatory parent meeting May 31st at 1:00pm at Good Shepherd**

Permission slips available in the church office. Due by noon on 5/17

**DECORAH PARKS & RECREATION**

**Little Lambs PRESCHOOL**

**4 year old Preschool Graduation**  
May 20th at 6:00pm

**3 year old Preschool Program**  
May 22nd at 10:00am

**Cookies, Juice and picture opportunities following both programs**

**\*Prayer partners wishing to give gifts or cards, please have them here no later than Tuesday May 19th.**

## LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Webinar

Do your end-of-life plans provide for your family and the ministries you care about? Join the LCMS

Foundation for a free online webinar, *Stewarding God's Gifts:*

*A Plan to Care for Your Family*

*and Support the Ministries You Love*, on Tuesday, June 16, from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM CDT. Led by

Leon Schoenfeld, LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor for Iowa District West, this session will help you understand the basics of Christian gift planning and how your will or estate plan can provide for your loved ones and support the ministries you care about.

To learn more and register: <https://www.lcmsfoundation.org/idw-giftplanning-webinar-2026>

Registering ensures you will receive a recording, even if you cannot attend live.

---



## 2026 Iowa March For Life

All members of IDW congregations are invited to participate in the **Iowa March for Life** on Saturday, June 20. The day begins at Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Moines (3223 University Ave.) with a Matins

Prayer Service at 9:00 a.m., followed by worship at 10:00 a.m. A lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m. After

lunch, participants will travel to the Iowa State Capitol for the March, beginning at noon. All are

encouraged to come, pray, worship, and walk together as witnesses for life.

---



Camp Okoboji is still in need of staff for the Summer 2026 camp season. Youth 16 and older and college students are encouraged to explore opportunities to serve on the Camp Okoboji team. Individuals interested in serving at Camp should begin by completing a NLOMA profile. This is the first step in the application process for summer positions. Fill out a profile online at <https://nloma.org/employment/summer/serviceprofile/>

---



# Update

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 22 - 25: WITTENBERG ACADEMY RETREAT

May 1 - 3: VOLUNTEER WORK WEEKEND




May 3: OMELET BRUNCH

May 29 - May 31: KIDS' KAMP

**REGISTRATION FOR CAMP OKOBOJI IS OPEN!**

Registration information is available online at [campokoboji.org](http://campokoboji.org).

# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Times and dates are subject to change					<b>1</b> 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 9am-Bible Study at Ardy's Mae	<b>2</b> 5:00 pm-Divine Service/HC
<b>3</b> 9:00 am-Divine Service/ Rite of Confirmation w/HC Confirmand Social following service 10:30am-SS/Adult Bible Study	<b>4</b> 12 pm-LL Preschool  6pm-Bd. Of Ed <b>*Note Date Change*</b>	<b>5</b> 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00 am-Sewing; 12 pm-LL Preschool  6:30 pm-LWML Board	<b>6</b> 12 pm-LL Preschool 6 pm-Singers 7pm-Ringers	<b>7</b> 7 am-Men's Bible Study  8:15 am-LL Preschool 10am-Mary's Circle 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:00 pm-Beacon of Hope	<b>8</b> 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	<b>9</b> 5 pm—Divine Worship with HC
<b>10</b> 9 am-Divine worship with HC 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study  	<b>11</b> 12 pm-LL Preschool	<b>12</b> 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 1:30 pm-Fr. Haven Comm. 6:30 pm-Kingsmen 6:45 pm-Hannah Circle	<b>13</b> 12 pm-LL Preschool 5 pm-Christian Outreach 6pm-Swaddling Clothes 6 pm-Singers 7pm-Ringers	<b>14</b> 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 3:00pm-Dorcas Circle 6:00 pm Ascension Worship Service w/HC	<b>15</b> 8:15 am-LL Preschool  9am-Bible Study at Ardy's Mae  12 pm-LL Preschool	<b>16</b> 5 pm—Divine Worship with HC
<b>17</b> 9 am-Divine worship with HC 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study  <b>**Last Day of Sunday School**</b>	<b>18</b> 12 pm-LL Preschool	<b>19</b> 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 11:30 am-JOY Group 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30-Trustees; 7:00-Council	<b>20</b> 10:30am-Lamplighters 12 pm-LL Preschool 6pm-4yr old Preschool Graduation 6 pm-Singers 7pm-Ringers	<b>21</b> 7 am-Men's Bible Study  8:15 am-LL Preschool	<b>22</b> 8:15am-LL Preschool  10am-3yr old Preschool Program	<b>23</b> 5 pm—Divine Worship
<b>24</b> 9 am-Divine Worship 10:30-Adult Bible Study	<b>25</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  	<b>26</b> 9 am-Sewing 6:30 pm—Elders	<b>27</b> 5pm-Swaddling Clothes 6 pm-Singers 7pm-Ringers	<b>28</b> 7 am-Men's Bible Study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5 pm—Divine Worship
<b>31</b> 9 am-Outdoor worship Pancake Breakfast 1pm-CIA Camping Trip Meeting			<b>Congratulations to all of our Class of 2026 Graduates!!</b>			

Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church

1436 21st Ave N  
Fort Dodge IA 50501

Phone: 515-573-3174

Email: [office@goodshepfortdodge.org](mailto:office@goodshepfortdodge.org)

Pastor Nicholas Thackery

Pastor Email:

[pastor@goodshepfortdodge.org](mailto:pastor@goodshepfortdodge.org)



---

*We're on the web*  
**[www.goodshepfortdodge.org](http://www.goodshepfortdodge.org)**  
Check us out on Facebook  
**Good Shepherd Fort Dodge**

---



### **LCMS Stewardship**

Follow Him in Generosity

*Originally published in May 2023*

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.